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We cannot believe that the children are into their third and final term in the Foundation Stage! The children have already achieved so much in their first two terms at St. Mary's. We are looking forward to witnessing them achieve even greater things in what promises to be a busy and very exciting term.

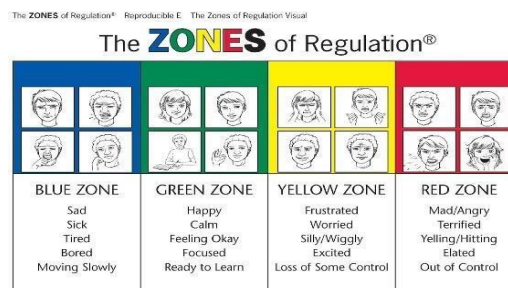
Our theme for the first half of this term is 'Bugs, Bees and Butterflies' and after half-term our learning will be based on 'The Seaside'. We will be learning about different mini beasts like caterpillars, ladybirds and beetles. We will be using some stories to support our learning. For example 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'The Tall, Tall Grass' and 'The Big Book of Bugs' Please continue to talk to your children and encourage them to talk to you about their work in school.

Here is a brief overview of what the children will be doing in the seven areas of learning this term.... remember they always interlink and overlap...

The Allotment - We will be planting sunflowers, runner beans and pumpkin seeds and many more! The children will spend a lot of time outside in our garden, looking after the flowers and vegetables, watering, looking at insects, examining, using their senses - these are all lasting childhood experiences. It looks like a very busy term!!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Through active child - initiated learning and practical tasks we will encourage the children to become independent and confident learners who are self - motivated.



Communication and Language

Our daily sessions of phonics and reading will continue to be a good basis for other cross-curricular work. The children will develop their reading and writing skills even further this term. They will listen to, and read, a variety of stories in whole class, group and individual reading sessions; including learning that we can find information from non-fiction books about different animals and plants.

Again, the children will be encouraged to write for many different purposes, which will include writing a seed diary, facts about 'minibeasts', picture prompts linked to our weekly text and recording what they have seen, made or experienced across all areas of their learning.

Physical Development

Gross motor - jumping, running, climbing, throwing and catching..... so many opportunities in our outside areas! Including our range of bikes and scooters that all come out for Bike day.

Fine motor - funky fingers to develop muscles for writing as well as many other activities to develop the pincer grip.

All children will need to bring a NAMED sports kit suitable for outdoor PE this term. We will be going outside for some of our PE sessions so your child will need suitable footwear.

Literacy - listening to and learning well-known stories, poems and songs. We will also be learning to write our names using our best St Mary's letter formation.

Phonics - we follow our own school scheme and will share more information on this with you soon so that you are able to support your child. Letter formation is incorporated into our phonics lessons. This term we will have lots of opportunities to apply our phonic skills in reading and writing activities.

Reading - Please read every night before bed as this is a perfect opportunity for your child to develop as a learner and reader! We will be sharing picture books in school and developing a 'love of reading'.

Writing - we will be modelling writing for different purposes across all areas of provision; shopping lists in the home corner, making plans in the construction area, signs around the classroom and recording the children's ideas. The children will be completing writing challenges in Drawing Club.

Foundation Stage

Newsletter

Summer 2025

Bugs, Bees & Butterflies

Mathematical Development



This term we will be working on composition, and decomposition, of numbers, for example seeing that 7 can be made of 5 and 2. Children will sort objects according to different criteria - such as colour, size. We will be looking at doubles as two equal parts.

We will also be exploring more complex patterns as well as shape and measure.

Expressive Arts and Design

In this area of learning the children will be expressing themselves in drama and role play through stories such as 'The Bad-tempered Ladybird' and 'Snail Trail'. Creative development is present in all areas of the EYFS curriculum. The children have access to activities every day which encourage, promote and celebrate creativity. The children have access to musical instruments, role-play areas, puppets and a creative area where they can make a variety of objects. The adult led creative activities are connected to each weekly theme where we encourage the children to talk about what they are doing and develop their use of the new vocabulary introduced.

Understanding the World

We will be growing flowers and vegetables and looking at the lifecycles of butterflies and frogs. We have not given up on our Giant Atlas Moth cocoons yet and hope they will emerge at some point this term. The children will be encouraged to talk about what they see happening and to show care towards living things by looking after them. We are lucky to have a pond on site which we will be using. Everyone enjoys pond dipping!

Forest School

Please wear OLD clothes, arms and legs must be fully covered. Waterproofs, welly boots. Layers for warmth, a sunhat as the weather improves. The children will be outside for most of the day.

First Session: Friday 2nd May

A chance to learn outside, develop their social skills, learn to mark-make and develop their fine and gross motor skills as well as learning about the world around them.



PARENTS HELPING: We would welcome parents to come and help with reading, Forest Schools gardening, village walks, trips, etc - please contact the office to book a DBS check. Then let me know when you can come in.

Please find time to share a book with your child at least 3 times a week. When your child reads at home, you need to record this in their Reading Diary. We will read with your child at least once a week and record this in their diary, so please ensure it is brought into school each day. We will 'check and change' books when we see that three reads have been recorded in the diary to ensure that your child is gaining fluency and confidence when reading. Demonstration is the best way to teach underlying concepts about reading and writing. Read posters, letters and magazines. Try to take advantage of every opportunity to demonstrate how and why adults read. Share writing the shopping list, thank you letters and invitations are good examples.

Important Dates

Start of Term 22nd April 2025

5th May - Bank Holiday

Half-Term 26th May - 30th May

Friday 13th June - Class photos

Saturday 14th June - Summer Fayre and Colour Run

Monday 16th June - Sports Day (PM)

Tues 1st & Thurs 3rd July - Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 9th July - New classes afternoon

10th July - UK celebration assembly

Tuesday 22nd July - Last day of term

Get in touch -

Communication is important to us - please do email if you have a worry. We will be sharing pictures and comments to show what your child has been up to!



General Reminders - If someone else is collecting your child then please let the Office know.

We are a NUT-FREE school



Book Bags - Please bring these in everyday, Reading Logs will be checked daily and we want to work with your child as much as possible,

Water Bottle - Please bring in daily and ensure it is clearly named.

Always ensure your child has a named waterproof coat - we will be outside every day no matter what the weather.

THINK WEATHER! hats, gloves, sunhats, sunscreen?

Please make sure everything is NAMED. **Uniform - Name, Name Name.**